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TAN-SAHARA-REED

BY MARC DELTELL

RABAT, MOROCCO, Dec 18: REUTER -- U.S. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER REED HAS QUOTED TODAY AS SAYING AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO MOROCCO WOULD SOON PROVE EFFICIENT IN ITS WAR AGAINST GUERRILLAS FIGHTING FOR AN INDEPENDENT WESTERN SAHARA. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY NEWSPAPER LE MATIN DU SAHARA QUOTED AMBASSADOR REED AS SAYING CONCRETE STEPS WERE TAKEN AFTER GUERRILLAS OF THE POLISARIO FRONT STORMED A MOROCCAN GARRISON LAST OCTOBER.

MR REED DID NOT DISCLOSE WHAT THESE STEPS WERE, BUT SAID THEY WOULD HELP MOROCCO COUNTER THE USE OF AN INCREASED QUANTITY OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY BY POLISARIO, WHICH IS FIGHTING MOROCCO'S ANNEXATION OF THE PHOSPHATE-RICH FORMER SPANISH COLONY.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE MOROCCO MILITARY AID WORTH 30 MILLION DOLLARS NEXT YEAR AND LARGER SUMS IN YEARS TO COME.

AFTER LAST OCTOBER'S BATTLE, MOROCCO ASKED FOR INCREASED U.S. AID, SAYING THE GUERRILLAS, WHO HAVE ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN BACKING, HAD USED SOVIET-MADE SRM-6 MISSILES TO SHOOT DOWN TWO MOROCCAN MIRAGE FIGHTERS AND A HERCULES C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE. \*

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